Sunday lotto draw may top ₱320M

By Julie M. Aurelio

SHE FIGURES SHE HAS LOST MORE than she has gained from all the bets that she has placed over the past 15 years. But like tens of millions of Filipinos all over the country who are addicted to the game of chance, Aida Calderon, 62, continues to pin her hopes on winning the 6/49 SuperLotto on Sunday.

"I sometimes think that the game is too good to be true, that it might be

SUNDAY A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 21, 2009 ** 3 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 75 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Does the country need 50 more congressmen?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DOES THE COUNTRY need more of their species?

Congressmen apparently think so as they want to increase their number, bringing the

DOES A4





FARMER AND OFW'S DAUGHTER. Jesie Ann Decoyna, is a Baguio Central University graduate.

39,455 new nurses; Ibaloi girl is No. 1

By Elmer Kristian Dauigoy and Vincent Cabreza in Northern Luzon and Kristine L. Alave in Manila

See complete list at www.inquirer.net

BAGUIO CITY—AN IBALOI FARM girl, whose father is a farmer and whose mother works for a Taiwanese family abroad, topped the November 2008 nursing licensure examination with a score of 89 percent.

Jesie Ann Decoyna, 24, a graduate of the Baguio Central University (BCU), said although she prayed hard, she was not expecting to top the exam. She added that she plans to help her hometown instead of leaving the country to work.

"Maybe I'll go abroad in the future, but not now. I want to work in Baguio, give back something," Decoyna told the Inquirer yesterday.

Some 39,455 or 44.5 percent of examinees passed the licensure exam given by the Board of Nursing (BON) last November.

The 2009 passing rate was slightly higher than the 43.1 percent passing rate in the last licensure exam in June 2008, where 27,765 out of the 64,456 passed the examinations, the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) said in a statement. Some 72 nursing graduates garnered the top 10 scores.

Aside from Decoyna, John Patrick Morales Dimaranan of Central Luzon Doctor's Hospital Educational Institute placed second with a score of 88.40 percent. Glen Karlo Curi of of BCU and Krystal Manasis of Dumaguete up [illegible] Manila shared

39,455 A4

'Junk VFA' gains ground

Bipartisan resolution set in Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac

A BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "revisit and accordingly terminate" the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) between the Philippines and the United States is gaining ground in the Senate.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan yesterday told the Inquirer by phone that two more of his colleagues had indicated their intention to back Senate Resolution No. 892, which he authored. But he did not name them, saying they would make the announcement themselves.

On Wednesday, five senators—Joker Arroyo, Pia Cayetano, Francis Escudero, Panfilo Lacson and Jamby Madrigal—affixed their signatures to the Pangilinan resolution.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said he would follow suit. "Since I voted against the VFA, I support [the resolution]," he said.

Pangilinan said Arroyo should be thanked for making public on Thursday a "complemental agreement" that proved the one-sided nature of the VFA, which governs the conduct of US troops engaged

JUNK VFA A11



NEVER TOO LATE Delfin Ramoran, 85, suffers a heart attack while waiting for his turn at the processing claims station set up at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. He's rushed to the emergency room. The medical bulletin on Ramoran at press time is that he's brain dead. The heartbreaking statistic, according to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, is that three days 10 veterans die daily. KIMBO ROCHOP

Unconscious veteran signs claim with an 'X'

By Tarra Quismundo

UNCONSCIOUS IN A HOSPITAL BED, 85-year-old war veteran Delfin Ramoran signed his claim form with an "X."

Ramoran, an Army officer who fought on Corregidor Island in World War II, suffered a heart attack in the heat of noontime yesterday while lining up to file his claim before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) application center at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC).

UNCONSCIOUS A4

Claimants told: Beware of fixers' syndicates

By TJ Burgonio, Christine O. Avendaño and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THEY SURVIVED A WORLD WAR, disease and old age. But a more ruthless enemy may still be lurking out there.

Malacañang, the Senate and a veterans group yesterday warned surviving Filipino World War II veterans to

CLAIMANTS A4



MONKEY BUSINESS The New York Post cartoon refers to the chimp shot dead after mauling a friend of its owner in Connecticut, and not to Obama. NEW YORK POST

NY Post apologizes for 'racist' cartoon

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK Post apologized on Thursday to those offended by an editorial cartoon that critics said was racist because it likened President Barack Obama to a chimpanzee.

The newspaper acknowledged that the cartoon published on Wednesday had drawn controversy because African-Americans and others saw it as a depiction of Obama.

"This most certainly was not its intent; to those who were offended by the image, we apologize," the paper said.

NY POST A4

45 hurt in Manila-Tokyo flight

TOKYO—FORTY-FIVE PEOPLE were injured, at least three seriously, yesterday when a Northwest Airlines Boeing 747 hit turbulence on the Manila-Tokyo leg of a US-bound flight, airport officials said.

Among the most seriously injured were three Philippine nationals, two men and one woman, Jiji news agency reported, quoting local police.

Ambulances took the injured to local hospitals after the jet with 408 passengers and 14 crew landed at Narita International Airport outside Tokyo at 12:19 p.m. (11:19 a.m. in Manila), an airport official said.

The plane took off from Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) at around 6:40 a.m. The flight, a favorite among Filipino-Americans residing in the midwest and the East Coast, was set to continue on to Los Angeles after a stopover.

45 HURT A4



THIS IS the US-bound Northwest Airlines Boeing 747 badly hit by turbulence shortly before landing at Narita on Friday. The flight originated from Manila. AFP

AFP sees no Sino threat in Spratlys

By Tarra Quismundo and TJ Burgonio

DESPITE CHINA'S "STRONG protest" vis a vis the Philippine baselines bill, the Air Force's 570th Composite Tactical Wing in Palawan is keeping the status quo on personnel and equipment deployment in the Kalayaan Island Group.

The Air Force yesterday brushed off the possibility that China, a military superpower, would use force in protesting the Congress-ratified measure defining Philippine baselines that covered parts of the disputed Spratly island chain in the South China Sea.

"We don't have any posturing there as a matter of policy," Col.

AFP SEES A4

Second FRONT PAGE

Ombudsman hits back at critics

Describes detractors as 'publicity-seekers,' 'self-righteous people'

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ YESterday lashed out at critics who claimed that she was sitting on high-profile cases, calling them "publicity-seekers" and asking them what they themselves had done to curb corruption, especially within their ranks.

What have they done?

Widening cracks

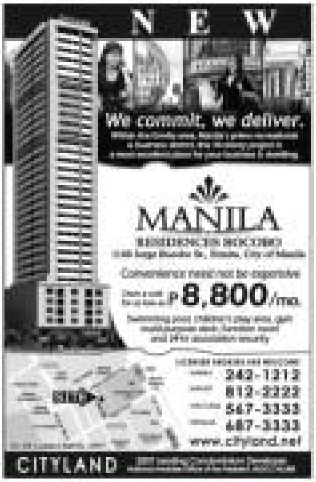
LPG prices down by ₱33 per tank

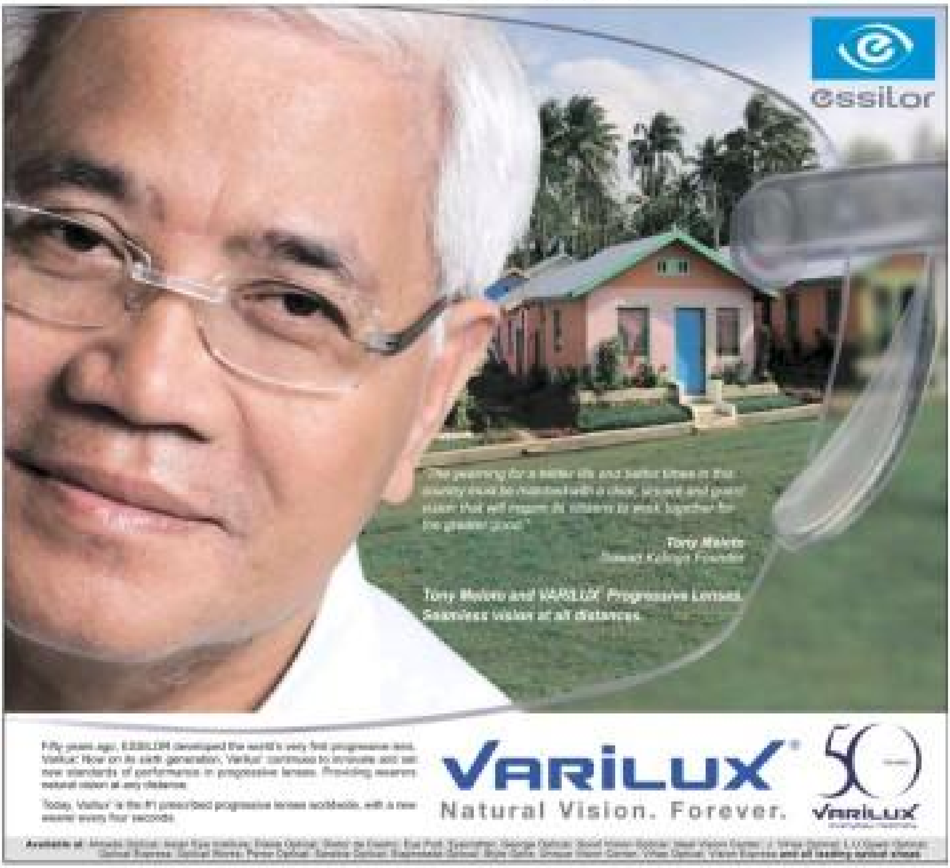
Peso breaches 48-to-1 level for 10-week low



RARE SPECTACLE

SC suspends Makati judge





AFP sees no threat in Spratlys; only 50 soldiers there

Modest contingent

Palawan barangay

Not on the agenda

'Regime of islands'

No cause for worry

'Dahan-dahan lang'

NY Post apologizes for cartoon; chimpanzee is not Obama

Lions, not chimpanzees

Message is clear

Violent chimpanzee

45 hurt in US-bound Manila-Tokyo flight due to heavy turbulence

'I thought I would die'

Screams

Sunday lotto draw may climb to P320M

3 days to game time

Addict

Chances are

The supernatural

Packed churches

Low-tier prizes

Wistful, dreamy

39,455 new nurses; Ibaloi girl is No. 1

November 2008 Nurse licensure examination top performing schools

PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS

Oathtaking: When and where

Emotional

No. 3 also from Baguio

The secret

Demand for nurses up

Xavier University is top nursing school

3 factors

The Daily Gospel

Unconscious veteran signs claim with an 'X'

From page A1

As of yesterday afternoon, he was under palliative care at the VMMC's Medical Intensive Treatment Unit (MITU), heavily breathing with the help of tubes, but otherwise unconscious.

"The doctor told me not to leave him because he can go anytime," a tearful Maria Paz Corpus, one of Ramoran's 15 children, told the Inquirer while clutching her father's right hand.

"He's been excited since yesterday. He wanted to get up from his bed. He said, 'I want to get my money' ... The doctor said maybe it's because of too much excitement that he had a heart attack," Corpus, 49, said in Pilipino.

Prefers RP to US

Bound to a wheelchair because of arthritis, Ramoran traveled with his daughter to VMMC aboard a barangay rescue vehicle around 5:30 a.m. It was his first time to leave his Pulikuhan, Makati, home in five months since being kept in bed by severe joint pains.

Ramoran has been receiving a P5,000 monthly pension from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and was thrilled to hear the news that he could get a lump sum amounting to about P435,000 from the US government.

He had a chance to go stateside and stay with one of his children a decade ago, Corpus said, but chose to stay in the Philippines "because he said most of his children are here," Corpus said. His wife Milagros, 82, has been in Los Angeles for 18 years and comes home every two years.

Suddenly, a convulsion

With his daughter behind him, Ramoran inched his way to the application counter behind more than 150 fellow veterans, eager to file his claim for the $9,000 lump sum benefit the US Congress recently approved for each war veteran.

"He told me 'Huwag mo akong iwan, mamamatay na ako (Don't leave me, I'm dying),'" said Corpus, who has yet to tell her mother about her dad's condition at the time of the interview.

While waiting in line, Ramoran suddenly vomited and suffered a convulsion.

"He was already unconscious when he was able to sign his application. An American (USDVA staff) just helped him mark an X with his hand where he was supposed to sign," Corpus said.

Brain dead

MITU physician Dr. Liz Castillo said Ramoran suffered a cardiogenic shock, a condition where a patient suffers a heart attack and a sudden drop in blood pressure.

"His condition is no longer good ... His blood pressure was 60/40 in the ER," Castillo told the Inquirer.

"His pupils are no longer reacting. It's one sign that he is already brain dead. Ninety-five percent of patients with this condition die," the doctor said.

'As good as applied'

Castillo said Ramoran was being given medicine to keep his blood pressure up and antibiotics for his pneumonia, a condition doctors discovered when they checked him.

"It's his first time to be admitted at VMMC. He has pneumonia and we found that he had a high level of infection in his blood," said Castillo.

Retired Gen. Ernesto Carolina, the defense undersecretary for veterans affairs, said Ramoran "was good as applied."

"I asked the USDVA and was told that as long as a veteran is alive and he was able to sign everything in the application form, even with an X, this is good as applied," Carolina.

"They (USDVA) will process the application form and they'll verify based on the data in the application form if the information matches their roster (the official list of recognized members of the United States Army Forces in the Far East and guerrillas)," said the official.

18 go every day

Of the estimated 240,000 to 250,000 Filipino veterans who fought with Americans in World War II, only 18,000 are still living. Most of them are in their 80s and 90s and, ravaged by old age and disease, they die at the rate of 10 a day, officials say.

Carolina's office estimates some 12,000 Philippine-based veterans will file their claims with the USVA and PVAO.



AT EASE Veterans in wheelchairs wait it out inside the compound of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office in Camp Aguinaldo.



CARRY ON The US Department of Veterans Affairs takes a file photo of Ovilio Ramoran in the emergency room of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center after he suffered a stroke while waiting for his claim to be processed. Ramoran's daughter Maria Paz Corpus (left) is by his bedside.



PHOTO OP Part of the process is photographing the claimants for record purposes.

14 venues for filing claim

BELOW ARE THE ADDRESSES of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) where US representatives will be available to accept claims of war veterans. The addresses are posted on the website of the US Embassy in Manila and were checked with the PVAO website.

METRO MANILA:

- PVAO Central Office—Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
- Veterans Memorial Medical Center—North Avenue, Quezon City

LUZON:

- PVAO San Fernando, La Union—National Highway Corner Diversion Road Pagdalagan, San Fernando City, La Union
- PVAO Baguio City, Benguet—USAFIP-NL Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio City, Benguet
- PVAO Tuguegarao, Cagayan—LA Collantes Building, Bonifacio Street, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
- PVAO San Fernando, Pampanga—Cheiler's Building, General Hizon Extension, San Fernando City, Pampanga
- PVAO Batangas City, Batangas—Provincial Capitol, Batangas City, Batangas
- PVAO Legazpi City, Albay—JFRT Building, Washington Drive, Legazpi City, Albay

VISAYAS:

- PVAO Iloilo City, Iloilo—Old Provincial Capitol Building, Iloilo City, Iloilo
- PVAO Cebu City, Cebu—Veterans, Camp Lapu-Lapu Lahug, Cebu City, Cebu
- PVAO Tacloban City, Leyte—Old Gomez St. Tacloban City, Leyte

MINDANAO:

- PVAO Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur—Southcom Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
- PVAO Davao City, Davao del Sur—Door 4, Uniforms Compound, Road Santa Ana Avenue, Davao City, Davao del Sur
- PVAO Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental—Camp Evangelista, Patag, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental

All Filipino WWII veterans are requested to bring the following when filing their claims: Two forms of identification (passport, driver's license, senior citizen ID, Bureau of Posts ID, Voter ID, etc.); VA claim number; Service number; PVAO claim number; PVAO pension bank account number; and US passport (if US citizen).

Claimants told: Beware of fixers' syndicates

From page A1

by way of sweet-talking fixers who may dupe them of what they have waited for, for 63 years.

Mabanding also said it was mobilizing various government agencies to locate the veterans—even those who may be living in the mountains—and bring them to processing centers so they can file their claims for compensation from the United States.

Some 18,000 surviving veterans are qualified to receive compensation under the $787-million economic stimulus package signed by President Barack Obama. Those who are US citizens will get $15,000 each while non-citizens will each receive $9,000.

The concern among officials and private groups is that the veterans may fall prey to shady operators.

Palad's warning

In Tayabas, Quezon, Antonio Palad, 83, president of the Tayabas Veterans Association, told the Inquirer his kingdom advice to his comrades was to "beware of fixers."

Palad predicted that with the compensation that each veteran would receive in recognition for helping American troops fight the Japanese, syndicates of fixers would spread across the country to offer their services to aging veterans.

"They will promise fast processing and easy release of claims in exchange for big sums of money," he warned.

"But they are liars and only intended to dupe the veterans of whatever money they can squeeze (from them)," said Palad, a retired teacher who fought in the war as part of the guerrilla movement.

Locate vets in remote areas

Under President Macapagal-Arroyo's order, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Interior and Local Government "will help in locating the veterans and in bringing them, especially those living in the remote areas, to the processing centers," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde told reporters.

Remonde said Ms Arroyo's directive was for the DSWD and the DILG to help process the veterans' papers "and ensure that they're not deprived of any single cent of their claim."

Gordon resolution

Mabanding warned fixers "not to take advantage of our veterans" by offering them services for a fee.

In a resolution authored by Sen. Richard Gordon and approved on Wednesday, the Senate urged concerned government agencies to protect "eligible Filipino veterans and their families from fixers."

The resolution proposed the setting up of a help desk and a hotline and the launching of an intensive information campaign for the veterans.

"The government must do everything in its power to prevent these ruthless and unprincipled characters from taking away the long-awaited vindication of the dreams of our veterans," the resolution said.

Biazon's plan

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee, said he would call for consultations with government agencies "on how we can help spread the right information to our war veterans."

Biazon said there was a need for a massive information campaign as he had heard there were people filing "bogus claims."

Avoid mistakes

Palad said he planned to go to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) in Camp Aguinaldo on Monday along with other veterans, to make inquiries on the application process and also file their own applications.

He asked qualified members not to be too hasty in pursuing their claims, saying: "Anyway, we're entitled to it. We have to be sure of our every step to avoid costly mistakes."

The Tayabas veterans plan to travel to Manila in convoys of rented vans. "Each of us will bring along an 'alalay' (aide) to make things easy for us," Palad said.

"I already ordered them to be ready with all the needed documents to avoid any (problems)," he said.

Daughter's fear

Annalyn Rodriguez, daughter of war veteran Lucio Lubloria, 84, said her father's war records were intact. "My father never loses hope," she said.

Lolo Lulo has a problem. She says making her husband, Dorotheo, 89, sign the necessary papers might be difficult.

"With his age, he is now hard-headed. He does not want to sign any document. He always says that he will be killed once he signs any paper. But he is very much qualified. His war service records are all complete," Lado told the Inquirer.

Palad advised his former war buddies to use the money wisely.

"They should first deposit it in the bank as emergency money. We are now old and sickly. We no longer need luxurious material things. But we can buy lands, like rice fields and farms," he said.

Evidence in poll case 'watered down'

By Michael Lim Ubac

WAS IT LITERALLY A CASE OF WAtered down evidence?

There's a new twist in the battle for the 12th Senate seat during the 2007 elections between the declared winner, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, and losing opposition bet Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Koko's father, yesterday revealed that the Senate Electoral Tribunal, where his son had filed a protest, recently discovered that water was apparently poured inside several boxes containing ballots from San Pablo City, Quezon City and Malabon City "rendering them unreadable and useless for the recount."

In San Pablo City alone, ballots apparently drained with water were found when the first 29 boxes were opened, the elder Pimentel said in a statement.



PIMENTEL

The senator said they would file charges against municipal and city treasurers who could have tampered with the ballots, saying it was obvious these were intentionally soaked in water, with the purpose of putting the blame on floods.

"Who will believe that the Pimentel camp had something to do with this despicable act? We do not think," said the minority leader.

"They cheated Koko during the counting of votes in Maguindanao and other Mindanao provinces in 2007," he added. "Now, their special operators are back at work, tampering with the ballots that are up for recount in the electoral protest."

Administrative and criminal charges would also be filed against the treasurers for being remiss in their duty as designated custodians of the ballots, ballot boxes and other election documents, he said.

Consorcia T. Reyes; 92

CONSORCIA TUBIO REYES, THE MOTHER of former Press Secretary Rodolfo T. Reyes, died yesterday at 92.

The widow of Ricardo F. Reyes of the Land Registration Commission, she is survived by her children Rod, Rick Jr., Romeo, Cleo and Monna and their spouses [illegible].

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment is scheduled on Feb. 24.

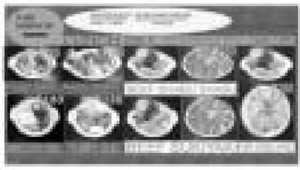
Corrections

IN THE FEB. 19 ISSUE, a front-page article "Those more important than money, says veterans" misstated the location of Camp Aguinaldo. Camp Aguinaldo is in Quezon, not Taguig City.

IN THE FEB. 20 ISSUE, a front-page illustration of the Philippine baselines omitted the source of the photo. The illustration should have been credited to Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Reader's Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, [illegible]



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

What has she done?

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ bristles at the demand of businessmen and former senior government officials that she resign for her failure to file charges against big-time grafters. [illegible]

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



Moral renewal as doublespeak

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

[illegible]

A triumph of justice

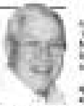
GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

[illegible]

Global Integrity calls RP 'moderate'

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Nostalgia

YOUNG BLOOD

'Language Martyrs'

COMMENTARY

Ricardo Ma. Nolasco, Ph.D.

The price of clean water

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos

THEY SAID

Misplaced priorities

Choosy rapist

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Tourism czarina

LETTERS

ACCRA case: primary target is Agustin, not Inquirer

The compleat political butterfly for all seasons

Across the NATION

COA probe sought on ₱20M in bonuses

Each of 151 Tayabas City employees got ₱132,000 in 'Valentines' payment

LUCENA CITY—FIVE COUNCILORS OF TAYABAS CITY asked the Commission on Audit to investigate the use of almost ₱20 million in government funds to give ₱132,000 in bonuses to each of the city's 151 employees recently.

Gov says sorry for signing pro-mining paper

'I regret falling for such assurance...'

Marriages baits for women in trafficking, exec warns

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon



INQUIRER Visayas

Why Kirsten never made it to the prom

Quiet Antique town outraged by killing of 15-year-old lass

KIRSTEN MEJICA HAD EAGERLY waited for her first junior-senior prom.

[illegible]

No gang-rape

[illegible]

Exaggerated reports

[illegible]

Palace says VFA 2 signed under Erap rule



ESTRADA: There's no secret.

Still in force

'Very transparent'

'Not legislated'

Junk VFA move gains ground



'VFA 2'

Myth of reciprocity

Because of 'Nicole'

Rank inequality

'GMA should do it'

Self-respect

Does the country need 50 more congressmen?



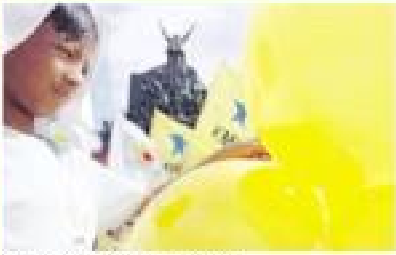
NOGRALES: Curious timing

Nograles resolution

No need for Senate consent

More pork

News



RALLY AT PEOPLE POWER MONUMENT

Former top gov't officials take up cudgels for WB

A GROUP OF FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS YESTERDAY defended the World Bank, which was assailed at the Senate last week for its seeming reluctance to furnish the chamber with documents related to the blacklisting of three Filipino construction firms.

WB commitment

Parañaque vice mayor wins in SC

US pedophile nabbed at BI

A plus METRO

Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

QC anti-carnap chief sacked

Probe panel wants copy of original video from ABS-CBN

By Nancy Carvajal

THE HEAD OF THE QUEZON CITY POLICE ANTI-CARNAP UNIT has been relieved, according to Senior Supt. Elmo San Diego, head of the fact-finding team created to investigate the alleged shootout on Edsa on Tuesday night that left three suspected car thieves dead.

[illegible]

Case against ABS-CBN

[illegible]

QC / A14

It's final: Jeepney fares cut by 50¢

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

[illegible]



HABITAT BEAUTIES

[illegible]



[illegible]

'Wowowee' game winner cries foul over house prize

By Beverly T. Natividad

[illegible]

Repossessed

[illegible]

Seven months

[illegible]

Ma. Aurora Santos, 65, lawyer

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



[illegible]

QC anti-carnap ...

From page A1

[illegible]

Crucial

[illegible]

Post-incident report

[illegible]

MetroBriefs

Call center agent killed by speeding truck

[illegible]

Marlon Ramos

There's no escaping your crime after all

[illegible]

Beverly T. Natividad

MMDA opens doors to skilled workers

[illegible]

Marlon Ramos

Taguig elderly receive birthday gifts

[illegible]

US-based woman sues Belo

[illegible]

Marlon Ramos

Argentina kicks out Holocaust-denying bishop



WILLIAMSON

Jury clears 3 in killing of Russian journalist

The WORLD

FBI finds tycoon linked to $8-B fraud

WASHINGTON—TWO DAYS AFTER HE WAS ACCUSED OF running an $8-billion financial fraud, the Texas financier Robert Allen Stanford was located by federal agents on Thursday and served with civil papers in the case.



STANFORD

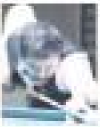
2nd inquiry hits UBS, pressed for 52,000 names

Geronimo's heirs sue secret society over his skull

UN: Iran has sufficient uranium to make A-bomb

Biotech firms accused of blocking crop research

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ 'Magician' strikes again /A20

SPORTS
Editor Rodolfo S. Melendres • Associate Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



■ Jazz bring down Celtics /A21

PSA affirms Pacquiao's greatness

By Recto S. Austria

MANNY PACQUIAO OCCUPIED CENTERSTAGE ONCE more when the Philippine Sportswriters Association bestowed on him the 2008 Athlete of the Year award in the San Miguel Corp.-PSA Annual Awards at the Alegria Lounge of the Manila Pavilion last night.

The World Boxing Council lightweight champion was likewise elevated into the PSA Hall of Fame, one of the highlights of the simple, two-hour rites.

Pacquiao won all his three fights in different divisions last year, including an eight-round knockout of ring legend Oscar De La Hoya.

Guest of honor Manny V. Pangilinan, the recipient of the Sports Patron of the Year, also delivered good news when he reported the progress of the country's basketball and boxing programs.

According to Pangilinan, the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas which he heads as president is sending the National pool team of coach Rajko Toroman to [illegible] next month and to the United States in April for further training.

The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, under (Abap) president Ricky Vargas, secretary general Patrick Gregorio and executive director Ed Picson, is also implementing a nationwide program to discover and inject new talents into the sport which he said is the country's best chance at an Olympic gold.

"I come to realize that we may indeed be able to make a difference," said Pangilinan, adding he wasn't really a boxing fan, until Pacquiao came along.

Pangilinan said he is into sports "simply because it teaches us many things about life."

Pangilinan said sports enable values to [illegible] and shape the framework of society.

"In its core, sports is ethical, value-based," Pangilinan said. "And that competitive sports is, by its very nature, a values activity."

"Sports involves fair play, respect for opponents, and appreciation of the traditions, practices and values created in society," he added.

"Athletes is a means available for us to influence and shape ethical behavior. The role of sports in illustrating, expressing and reinforcing important values is significant and should not be ignored."

Then quoting the great French philosopher Albert Camus, Pangilinan said, "the only country in which he (Camus) really learned ethics was sport."

Major awardees: [illegible]



PANGILINAN: We can make a difference



PACQUIAO: Hall of Famer

[illegible]

Peñalosa battles Mexican Meraz in Cebu today

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

CEBU CITY—WBO BANTAMWEIGHT king Gerry Peñalosa may not be putting his title on the line in his bout today against Mexican German Meraz, but the intelligent veteran says this is going to be an all-important fight in his career.

Peñalosa sees action in the 10-round main event of tonight's "Battle of Bantamweights" card at the New Cebu Coliseum, in a bout that is basically a preparation for his upcoming match against the hard-hitting Juan Manuel Lopez.

The bouts will be aired tonight starting 9 p.m., with a replay tomorrow 9 a.m. on ABS-CBN.

"I am ready for this fight. I hope he is too," said the 36-year-old veteran, who will square off against Lopez, the WBO super bantamweight king, on April 25 in Puerto Rico.

Both Peñalosa and Meraz came into the scales at 120 lb during official weigh-in yesterday attended by WBO Asia Pacific chair Leon Panoncillo, and co-promoters Sammy Gello-ani and vice governor Manny Piñol.

Peñalosa will be assisted in his corner by brothers Dodie Boy and Jonathan.



GERRY Peñalosa (right) wants to become a three-division champion.

So trips Russian lady IM

MOSCOW, RUSSIA—FILIPINO GM WESLEY So redeemed himself from a heartbreaking setback the previous day, beating IM Tatiana Kosintseva of Russia to bounce back into contention in the Aeroflot Chess Festival 2009 at [illegible] here Thursday.

So overwhelmed his female foe in 35 moves of the Closed Ruy Lopez to improve to two points on two wins and two losses.

The 15-year-old Filipino champion, who is seeking a fitting follow-up to his triumph in the Corus tournament in Wijk Aan Zee, Netherland early this month, opened his campaign with a dramatic victory over GM Anton Filippov of Uzbekistan in the round before losing to IM Pavel Ponkratov of Russia the following round.

Against Kosintseva, So gave up a knight on his 20th move to gain a lasting attack on the kingside with his queen and two active rooks.

He regained the piece by forcing an exchange of queens eight moves later and steered the match into a rook and pawn ending.

Overall, So is tied for sixth to 20th places with two points, a full point behind sole leader IM Igor Kurnosov of Russia, who defeated Ponkratov in the battle of second-round leaders, and half a point behind top seed GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan, GM Alexander Moiseenko of Ukraine, GM Evgeny Tomashevsky of Russia and GM Boris Grachev of Russia.



Donaire won't be stung by this Cobra

By Marc Anthony Reyes

'Magician' strikes again

Reyes rallies past Canadian champ in Baguio tilt



POC warns on Vietnam aid to SEA Games host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Sportswatch

Rizal cockers convention gets going in Marikina

Who says Gerry can't jump off a moving jeep?

Bare Eye



Buensalida tipped to score repeat NCA derby victory



World Sports

Ginobili out 2 to 3 weeks

Nadal skips Dubai tennis

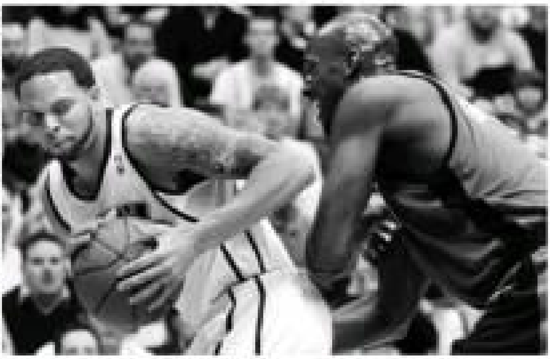


NADAL

Dawson-Tarver bout off

FOURTH-QUARTER RALLY

Jazz bring down Celtics



Stars stay put as NBA trade deadline passes



O'NEAL

Tiger's back on the prowl

Woods announces return after 8-month absence



Mickelson seizes Northern golf lead

Milo runs tomorrow

SPORTS

Manotoc sparks Canlubang rally







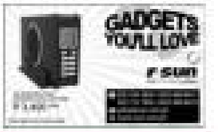
RP sloops Karakoa, Subic Centennial boost bids

Local karters compete in Pagcor tilt

IN THIS ISSUE

DSP tightens monitoring of foreign exchange flows /B2

BUSINESS



Kirin buys 43% of San Miguel Brewery for P59B

Ongpin group acquiring Japan brewer's stake in SMC

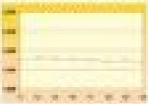
SAN MIGUEL CORP. YESTERDAY SIGNED A DEAL to sell a 43.25-percent stake in crown jewel San Miguel Brewery Inc. to Japan's second largest brewery Kirin Holdings Co. Ltd. for P58.9 billion.

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks close lower



PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Chinese, Thais eye projects on Samal islands

Thoughts on Golf and Life



BSP tightens monitoring of foreign exchange flows

MPIC swaps Landco shares for stake in malls

SM Prime posts 7% profit growth

Galoc plans to resume operations next week

MVP-Philstar deal seen concluded soon

Kirin buys 43% of San Miguel Brewery for ₱59B



SCIENCE/HEALTH

Hypertension vigilance called for in young people

DOES YOUR TEENAGER or young adult often complain of having persistent headaches, recurring fatigue, visual changes, frequent dizziness and shortness of breath?

Rare condition

Not so rare

Johns Hopkins cancer alert a hoax

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

A complete hoax

Antioxidants' role

Preliminary study

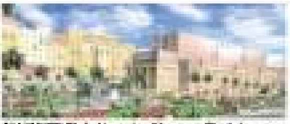
High-rise condo boasts innovative concept



EACH floor is laid out so that every unit will enjoy natural light and ventilation.



GREAT view is assured with The Trion Towers' innovative building arrangement.



ALLIANCE Global is eyeing Newport City's luxury Marriott Hotel and all-suites Maxims Hotel across Naia 3 to open during the second half of the year

Newport City readies 2 luxury hotels across Naia 3

The formation of a good architect

LIVING ARCHITECTURE





DEAN Jojo Fernandez

Magnolia Place is for residents seeking an inspired lifestyle



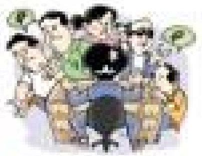
WITH MAGNOLIA Place, DMCI Homes gives residents of Northern Quezon City a chance to upgrade to a better standard of living.

PROPERTY

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

85% of metro property cases at HLURB involve refund of installment payments

AN ESTIMATED 85 PERCENT of cases being filed recently with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board legal office, including calls and walk-ins, involve refunds of installment payments. The refunds of installment payments include subdivision and condominium developments in Metro Manila.



Continue to increase

Who could avail of refunds

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan
Associate Editor: Pam Pastor



Bored with lectures?

Filmmaker, entrepreneur, graphic designers open a school like no other

Here's a big shift for creative students



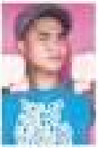
MICO Nazario of Team Manila



QUARK Henares



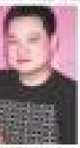
HON PUNZALAN of Team Manila



JOWEE Alviar of Team Manila

By Wengga Galinga

IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME: creative kids with dreams of becoming directors or multimedia artists (everything is multimedia these days!) get stuck trying to pass all general subjects in the first two years of college before they can get to the fun stuff like Introduction to Film or Photoshop 101.



LEX LEDESMA of The One School

Classes are dry-and up-writing more papers, sitting in on lectures on the theory of visual design, instead of producing something they can post on youtube or deviantart pages.

Team Manila, Quark Henares and The One School are putting up SHIFT—the School of Intermedia Arts and Film Technology.

This is what Lex Ledesma of The One School describes as "really complex, really avant garde" place of higher learning. "Not everybody was meant to study in the traditional methods," Ledesma explains. He uses what he has learned from The One School and the School of Fashion and the Arts to prepare for SHIFT.

He calls it "personalized education," where there are less paper tests and more project-based grading, and with a small student body.

Its April begins a short course on Intro-

SHIFT F3



THE NEW breed of teachers



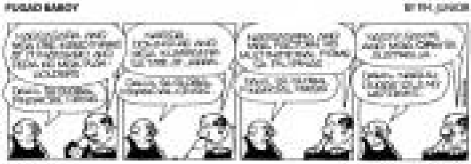
GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY — BY PM. JUNIOR



DICK TRACY



LOVESHOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



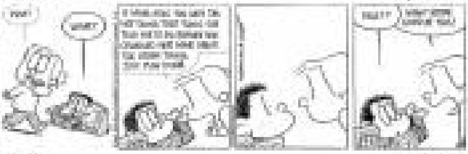
JAMES BOND



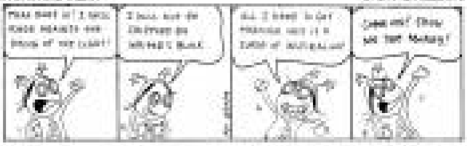
DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS



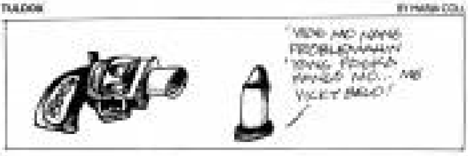
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



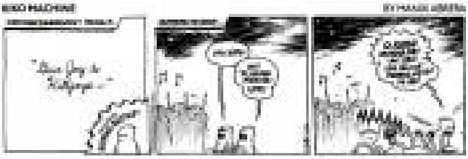
ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO



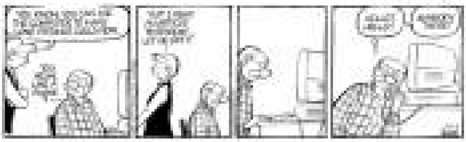
TULDOK — BY MARIA COLL



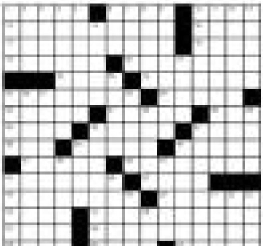
KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA



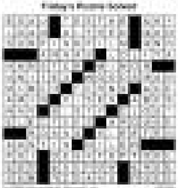
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



Friday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2				3				
	4		6		8			
		7				1		
	5		4				7	
7				8				6
	9				5		3	
		6				5		
			1		9		4	
				7				3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	1	8	7	2	5	6	3	9
5	9	3	6	4	8	1	2	7
7	2	6	9	3	1	5	4	8
8	3	7	2	6	9	4	5	1
9	4	1	3	5	7	8	6	2
2	6	5	1	8	4	7	9	3
3	8	2	4	1	6	9	7	5
1	7	4	5	9	3	2	8	6
6	5	9	8	7	2	3	1	4



ARTISTS passionate about education

You might be wondering ...

Are you meant for SHIFT?

[illegible]

What subjects can you expect?

[illegible]

Bored with lectures ...

From page C1

[illegible]

New breed

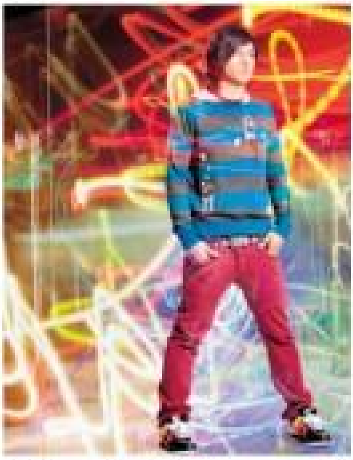
[illegible]

Pens down, pass your papers

[illegible]



[illegible]



Jammin' with Mong Alcaraz



The guitarist of Sandwich and Chicosci is a geek more than anything

What's the worst thing an 'ex' has done to you?

Commitment isn't all fun and sunshine

wear your a tee-tude!



Make a statement with these cool amo-tees from SM Girls Teens' Wear Department. From pretty neat to lil' rogue looks, sport these uber hip designs any day.





College dance group protests contest account

Super LifeStyle

Kjwan in 13 Seconds



TOP/INSET: Kjwan launches their latest musical masterpiece via the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic

What a cool way to launch an album

By Ruby de Vera

THE WORLD IS DIGITAL AND ALmost everything can be downloaded from the Internet. Movies, TV series, software, and most especially songs, are all out there, if you know where to look. Piracy is the bane of artists. It's too easy to rip off whole albums and share it with friends.

That's why when Kjwan wanted to release their latest album, 13 Seconds to Love, they chose to partner with Nokia in an innovative way. Nokia's latest model, the 5800 XpressMusic, is the perfect vehicle for this. It includes their latest hit Lifeline. Kjwan is composed of Marc Abaya on vocals, Kelley Mangahas as bassist, Jason Ballecer on drums, and Jorel Corpus and Boogie Romero on guitars.

The whole album is pre-loaded in the phone—the only way to listen to a different Kjwan. If you're a fan of the band, this one is not their usual work. It's slower, spacier, and it's all about life and love. Perfect for Valentine month, isn't it?

The album was launched at the jam-packed A. Venue Hall on Feb. 6, with special performances by the Out of Body Special, [illegible]. Kjwan performed songs from their latest album and some earlier hits.

Asked why they opted to release the album in this unconventional way, Kjwan said they believe in Nokia's dominance of the wireless market, that they could reach a wider audience this way. They don't have to worry about piracy because the tracks are locked into the phone. No, you can't send it via Bluetooth to friends.



NOKIA Corporate Communications Manager [illegible] and Mobile Product Manager [illegible] with Kjwan



KELLY Mangahas, Jason Ballecer, Boogie Romero, and Marc Abaya

The album is not the only stuff you load on the phone; there are also other tracks and videos from Universal Records—value-added for the consumer. With Nokia 5800's touch-screen technology, it's a breeze to play music. It has built-in surround sound stereo speakers. It offers the best sound in the industry. The Nokia 5800 XpressMusic is one fully loaded phone that takes advantage of the touch-screen technology, and gives you direct access to your music and videos through the Media Bar. What better way to listen to Kjwan's love songs than this?

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

A blissful experience



Re-energize in a lakeside resort

Nights of wines and fine dining at The Tivoli

Escape to the Malayan Plaza





Red temptation confectionery at Sofitel

The Residences offers 'Paradise Romance'



OILY BATTLE



This is a place for having freaky fun—if you're ready to leave political correctness at the door



Where oily midgets wrestle and ladies box

By Pam Pastor

"WHO WANTS TO OIL THE midgets?"



Sparring fun

Good food



BUFFALO wings



CHICKEN BBQ pizza

Tours, Leisure & Chow

February dinner exclusives at The Richmonde Grill



Latin night fever at the Music Bar

Luscious fondue selections at The Gambrinus Bar

Sunset barbecue



MIXED Seafood Combo

Thai puppet show at Dusit Thani Manila

Roy and Pete's Texas Smoke 'em

Make way for the Bayan Knights!



By Ruel S. De Vera

Urgently needed superheroes are here—Pinoy superheroes

LIKE ANY EPIC TALE, THIS story begins with a secret—a secret stash, that is.

When Gilbert Monsanto was young, his older brother George kept these primitive treasures—comic books—hidden away.

"Which is actually a good thing because it made me more curious about comics," Monsanto explains. George taught him how to draw, giving Monsanto a piece of advice he never forgot: "Drawing is about flow and spaces."

These flow and spaces came into play early as Monsanto actually got his work published in second year high school, a comic strip he created with George called "Midgard" for the weekly kids' fair Children Only. "But after just two outings, I decided to stop since I was still just too young, at 16, to seriously think about work," he says.

In time, Monsanto would work in komiks like Super Funny Komiks, lend his art to covers for Pasion's Philippine Ghost Stories and oversee the art chores for Mango Comics' Darna revival.

He also worked behind the scenes for foreign comic titles. He self-published titles such as "Exodus Revolution" and, eventually rolled out his most ambitious project yet through his Sacred Mountain Publications.

Monsanto, 36, has been toying with the title "Bayan Knights" for a while. Coming home from San Diego Comicon last year, Monsanto was on Deviantart.com when he noticed that someone wanted to create a Filipino superhero database.

Reading the entries, he realized this was what he was seeking.

"I actually said to myself, only if there's a publisher who would have faith in these characters and give these creators a chance to get their stories out there."

He invited the creators to join him and formed a team of Pinoy superheroes called the Bayan Knights, the focal point of a comic book series that took three months to construct.

Quarterly

Its second issue out soon, "Bayan Knights" is a quarterly series at P60 an issue, about a group led by Monsanto's own creation, the former cop [illegible] who has lost all his brave men.

"He realized he can't trust anyone at this point, not even the government," Monsanto explains. "His last hope is to seek aid from a different kind of hero—superheroes."

Enter the Bayan Knights. "I placed them all in a single scenario or theme that anyone of them can relate to—their [illegible]. Their purpose in life, to be heroes, is suddenly being challenged. As Bayan Knights, they might stand a chance to get through this alive."

From Manila Man and Lastikman to [illegible] and Boy Ipis, it is clear these are Filipino heroes in a team unlike any other.

"It is all about character," says Monsanto. "Anyone of us can don a superhero costume or wear improvised clothing, but when we speak, we are Pinoy to the core."

The jokes and the dialogue—a mixture of English and Filipino—are undeniably Pinoy as well. There are the ingenious, myth-based concepts of the [illegible] as armor, the cockroach as terror bug, even a flying banana leaf. "If you look closely, you'll find yourself in each of these characters, diverse and full of color."

Flagship

"Bayan Knights" is the flagship in the expansion of the Sacred Mountain line, including the horror anthology [illegible] and perhaps even individual Bayan Knights titles. But for Monsanto, it is the first strike in his own knight's quest, where he seeks to empower a new pantheon of young Filipino creative powers.

"They (the respective creators) get to keep the rights to their original characters and create their own titles without his clearance," he says. "I hope by giving them the right help, they'll maintain the next generation of comics makers who will make new readers into the future of comics entertainment in our country."

"Bayan Knights" is available at National Book Store, Comic Odyssey and Comic Quest. For more information, visit http://bayanknights.blogspot.com.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Tearing up, breaking down on TV /E4

SATURDAY Special



Woody Allen's atypical rom-com leaves a lingering aftertaste

Spanish painter



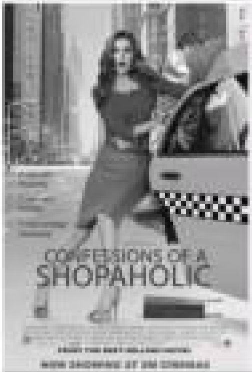
FORUM

Filmmakers recall unforgettable romantic scenes



Most important discovery

SM CINEMA movietime



Buy 2 (two) Confessions of a Shopaholic movie tickets (single transaction) on February 21, 2009 at any participating SM Cinema branch and get a Limited Edition Confessions of a Shopaholic Shopping List Memo Pad!

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RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX

FLY ME TO THE MOON

U2

DINOSAURS

SEA MONSTER

THE PODIUM

GRAN TORINO

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC

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LUZON

VISAYAS - MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 VALKYRIE
2 GRAN TORINO
3 VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA
4 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU
5 WHEN I MET YOU
6 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
7 PINK PANTHER 2
8 SAGWAN
9 UNDERWORLD 3
10 PUSH

ERMITA

1 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU
2 VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA
3 GRAN TORINO
4 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
5 WHEN I MET YOU
6 VALKYRIE
7 PUSH
8 SAGWAN
9 UNDERWORLD 3

METRO EAST

1 PUSH
2 GRAN TORINO
3 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER 2
5 UNDERWORLD 3
6 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
7 VALKYRIE
8 WHEN I MET YOU

NOVALICHES

1 SAGWAN
2 VALKYRIE
3 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
4 WHEN I MET YOU

PIONEER

1 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
2 GRAN TORINO
3 WHEN I MET YOU
4 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU



STA. ROSA

1 VALKYRIE
2 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
3 INKHEART
4 WHEN I MET YOU

LIPA

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 INKHEART
3 AUSTRALIA
4 WHEN I MET YOU

DASMARIÑAS

1 INKHEART
2 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
3 WHEN I MET YOU
4 THE ABANDONED

IMUS

1 INKHEART
2 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
3 WHEN I MET YOU
4 THE ABANDONED

ANGELES

1 INKHEART
2 WHEN I MET YOU
3 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
4 YES MAN

STARMILLS

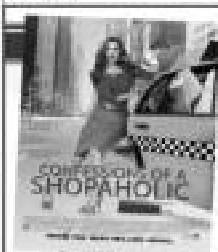
1 WHEN I MET YOU
2 CONFESSIONS of a SHOPAHOLIC
3 YES MAN
4 THE HAUNTING of MOLLY HARTLEY
5 INKHEART
6 MILK

BACOLOD

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 YES MAN
3 PINK PANTHER 2
4 WHEN I MET YOU
5 VALKYRIE
6 SAGWAN

ILOILO

1 BRIDE WARS
2 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
3 WHEN I MET YOU
4 UNDERWORLD 3
5 PINK PANTHER 2
6 SAGWAN



now showing at MOVIEWORLD

Filmmakers...

Grieving wife

All-Pinoy cast...

Stretch that body

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

More intense

Tearing up, breaking down on TV

By Nestor U. Torre



MARTIN NIEVERA WAS THE FIRST ...

Prospects

Spiels

All-Pinoy cast celebrates VDay in LA

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

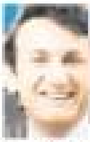
Popular TV show

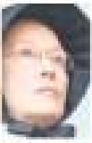


CATUBIG AND SO. Fight violence against women.

Motherhood

SATURDAY Special





PENN AND STREEP

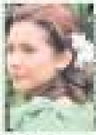
And the Oscar goes to . . .

By Rito P. Asilo

Results

Runaway winner

Makiling anecdotes



MARIA MAKILING. Personification of Mount Makiling

Advocacy

Contrasts, rapport make for diverting viewing



DOLLAY ALAS.

First telecast

Problem

No big deal

Festive atmosphere marked the grand opening of Xevera Mabalacat

FIREWORKS, a parade, colorful floats, magicians, skaters, grand performances, street dancing, celebrities and personalities, and the participation of 30,000 guests marked the whole-day celebration of the grand opening of Xevera Mabalacat on January 25.

[illegible]

Star-studded Affair

[illegible]

Experience the good life

[illegible]

Convenient and accessible living

[illegible]



[illegible]

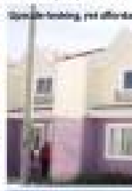


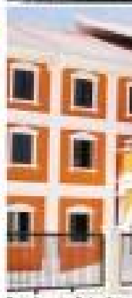
[illegible]

Romantic touch of European Architecture

[illegible]



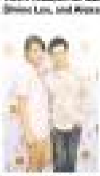




[illegible]



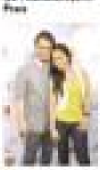
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[illegible]



Anne Curtis and Tim Yap



Billy Crawford and Maja Salvador



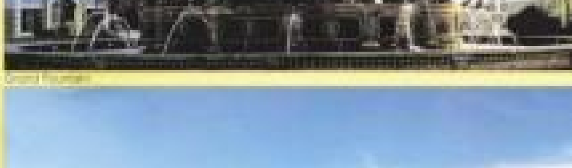
[illegible]



Gerald Anderson and Kim Chiu



Matt Evans and Melissa Ricks



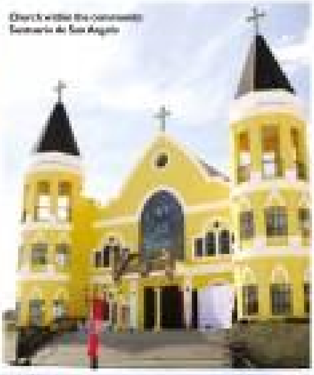
Grand Fountain



Commercial Area







Church within the community: Santuario de San Angelo

The grandeur of old European architecture has influenced the overall theme and look of the Xevera Mabalacat, Globe Asiatique's premier development in Mabalacat Pampanga. From the affordable townhouses, the church, the plaza, the town hall and clubhouses--structures inside the grand development boasts of upscale design aspects





Affordable possible: Good looking home is now within reach

For more information, visit www.xeveramabalacat.com or call (045) 323-8000, 0917-803 1000, 0922-803 1000.

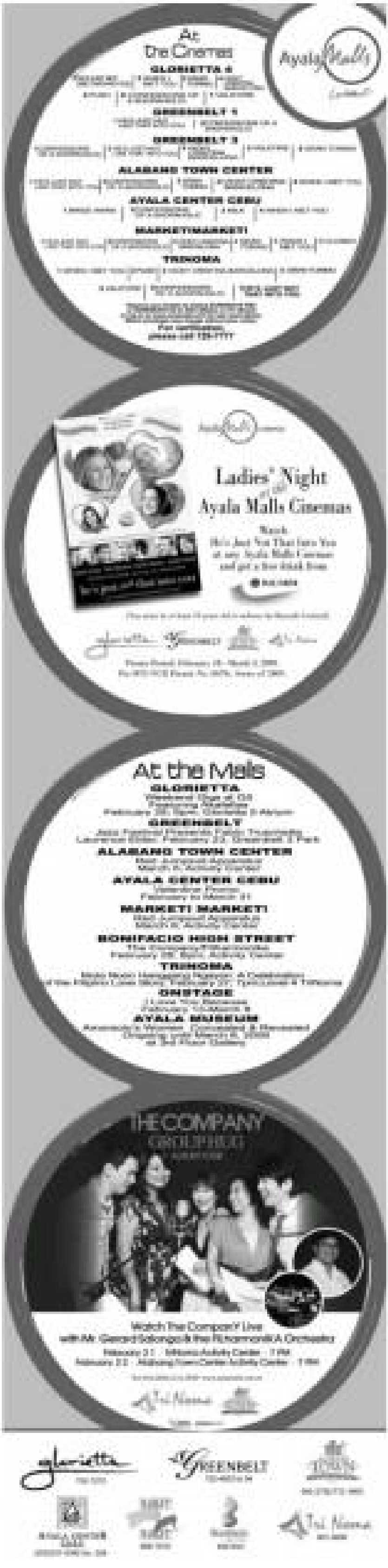




European-inspired street performances







Sharon boosts 10 signs of good nutrition

MONTAGE

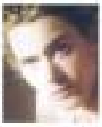


CUNETA (WITH DAUGHTERS MIEL AND FRANKIE). Underscores importance of reading the labels on children's milk products to appreciate the value of essential nutrients.

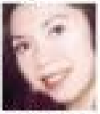
'The Reader'

'Pagsambang Bayan'

New episodes on Nickelodeon



'Love Grooves'



Concert for FAITH Chapel

Cinevita Film Festival

'Survivor Philippines' auditions



Franz makes it happen

STREET SMART



Accomplishments